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Giant Drug Monopoly Charged by Kefauver

By CHARLES G. BROOKS
Star Staff Writer

There is a greater monopoly in the drug industry than in any other manufacturing area, Senator Kefauver, Democrat of Tennessee, charged today.

Senator Kefauver, chairman of a subcommittee investigating the price of prescription medicine, said the high degree of specialization by the larger manufacturers does not permit true competition.

He called the drug industry's concentration of production "by far the highest I've seen in any industry."

John Blair, a committee economist, produced an exhibit showing 51 products which represent two-thirds of all prescription drugs.

Mr. Blair said that in 27 cases 100 per cent of all production is by one company. In seven more production is limited to two companies, and in nine others all manufacturing is done by three companies.

He pointed out that the popular mild tranquilizer meprobamate is entirely controlled by Carter while the tranquilizer known as promacine is entirely manufactured by American Home Products.

In the antibiotics field American Cyanimid exclusively produces aureomycin and Pfizer manufactures all terramycin and oleandomycin.

Dr. Austin Smith, head of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, disagreed with the committee and said the high degree of specialization proves only that the drug companies are producing that which is needed by the public. He declared that most manufacturing industries have much more production concentration than the drug industry.

At an unusual night session of his Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee that lasted until nearly 2 a.m., Senator Kefauver said the committee had figures that showed the 22 largest drug firms spent 6.4 per cent of their income on research.

This conflicted with a statement presented by the PMA, which said the industry spent 9.5 per cent on research, as compared to 3.2 per cent for all other industries.

Senator Kefauver said the committee's figures were supplied by the companies in answer to a committee questionnaire. He asked PMA officials to consult with the committee staff to clear up the difference.

Industry spokesmen have cited high research costs as a large factor in drug costs.

The night session did not begin until after the Senate recessed at 10:11 p.m. last night. Republican Leader Dirksen of Illinois objected to the subcommittee sitting while the Senate was in session, saying he could not be in both places at once.

Senator Kefauver then called the subcommittee meeting after the Senate quit. Senator Dirksen did not show up.

Silent Satellite Thought to Be Lost Capsule

By the Associated Press

The Defense Department thinks it has solved the mystery of the mystery satellite: It's probably part of a Discoverer rocket that was supposed to come back to earth but didn't.

The department said yesterday it came to this conclusion after continuing study by Navy and Air Force tracking stations. The existence of the silent satellite, tumbling in a nearly polar orbit, was announced February 3.

There was much speculation about it, including theories that it was a Russian spy satellite or that it was a tiny natural moon nobody had ever noticed before. Russia denied having anything to do with it.

The Defense Department announcement yesterday said "It is believed this vehicle most probably is the ejected recovery capsule of Discoverer V launched into polar orbit in August, 1959.

"This capsule was programmed to be ejected downward and backward by a retrorocket which imparts to the capsule a velocity of about 1,300 to 1,400 feet per second with respect to its carrier rocket.

"It is known that the Discoverer V capsule was ejected. However, the carrier rocket probably was not in the proper position for ejection toward the earth. The energy imparted by the retro-rocket was such as to provide an orbit similar to that of the unidentified satellite."

The Government has tried several times to bring these capsules back to earth after putting them in orbit with carrier rockets. One is believed to have returned to earth, but it was never found.

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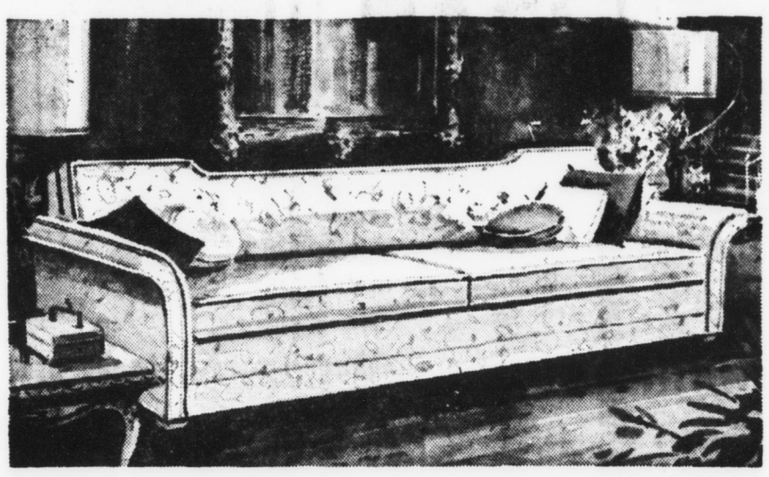

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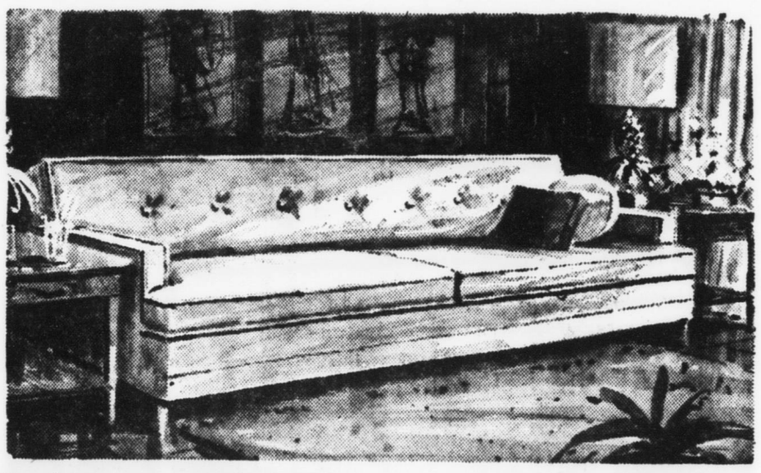

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